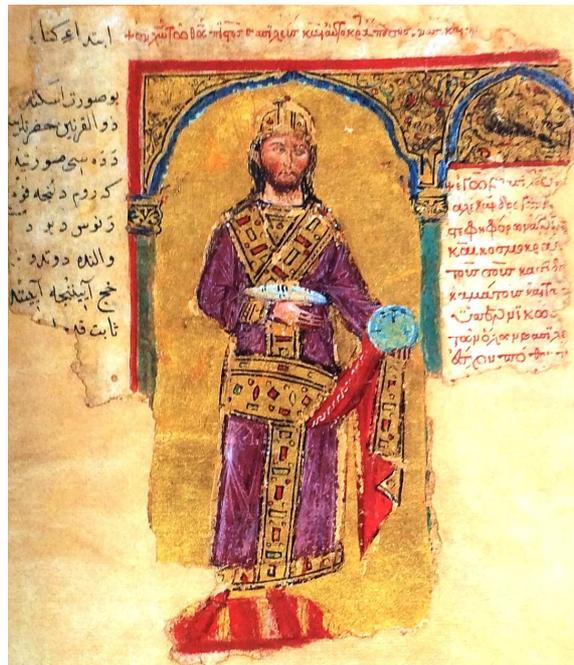


# History on the Margins

*Marginalia in Early Modern South-Eastern Europe,  
15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Centuries*



1<sup>ST</sup> HEMSEE WORKSHOP

VIENNA, 3-4 OCTOBER 2019

## Historiographies of Early Modern Southeast Europe (HEMSEE)

The Vienna-based project HEMSEE (financed by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation) intends to produce a source-based handbook showing the challenges and opportunities of working with the historiographic texts of Early Modern Southeast Europe. Operating with thematic clusters, we will explore both familiar and uncharted territories and thereby analyze excerpts from both mainstream and “minor” sources.

### Writing on the Margins

Relentlessly chasing solid data for their research, historians have long (and justifiably) used marginalia as source of information. Nevertheless, as the focus was rather on details than on form, structure, or motive, writing on the margins was hardly addressed in its own right. This allegation holds particularly true for Early Modern Southeast Europe where the “notes of yore”, which allegedly offered unmediated access to otherwise unaccessible bygone worldviews and realities, fuelled many collections, but inspired few epistemological reflections.

Recent developments in the field of medieval diplomatic, literary studies, art history, or history of ideas, provide, however, plenty of food for thought for all those interested in the topic. The number of high-quality editions is also increasing at a steady pace. As a direct consequence, the first workshop organized in the framework of the project *Historiographies of Early Modern Southeast Europe* intends to build upon these stimuli and reflect, from a cultural-historical perspective, on the potential and limits of Southeast European marginalia as form of writing about history.

We operate with a concept of marginalia, which tries to take into account the remarkable linguistic and typological diversity of the marginal notes. Our aim is to reflect on the issue of “marginal” subjects, discuss the interplay between text and image, and provide a plausible interdisciplinary interpretative framework for an elusive and, by definition, peripheral phenomenon.

Paolo ODORICO, “...*Alia nullius momenti*. A proposito della letteratura dei *marginalia*,” *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 78 (1985): 23-36; Lucy Freeman SANDLER, “The Study of Marginal Imagery: Past, Present, and Future,” *Studies in Iconography* 18 (1997): 1-49; Anthony GRAFTON, *The Footnote: A Curious History* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997); Heather J. JACKSON, *Marginalia. Readers Writing in Books* (New Haven / London: Yale University Press, 2002); EAD., *Romantic Readers. The Evidence of Marginalia* (New Haven / London: Yale University Press, 2005); Geoffrey KOZIOL, *The Politics of Memory and Identity in Carolingian Royal Diplomas. The West Frankish Kingdom (840-987)* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2012); *Marginalia* 19 (2015) [Tenth Anniversary Conference: “Out of the Margins”, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2014]; Konrad PETROVSZKY, “Marginal Notes in South Slavic Written Culture. Between Practicising Memory and Accounting for the Self,” *Cahiers du Monde Russe* 58/3 (2017): 483-502.

### Convenor

Dr Ovidiu Olar

### Host

Institut für Neuzeit und Zeitforschung

Forschungsbereich Balkanforschung

Apostelgasse 23

1030 Wien

### Venue

Institut für Neuzeit und Zeitforschung

— Forschungsbereich Balkanforschung – HEMSEE Project

Seminarraum, Erdgeschoß

Apostelgasse 23

1030 Wien

### Cover

Alexander Romance, The Hellenic Institute for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice MS 5. Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Byzantine\\_Alexander\\_Romance,\\_Venice#/media/File:Dedication\\_page\\_Hellenic\\_Institute\\_codex\\_5.JP](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Byzantine_Alexander_Romance,_Venice#/media/File:Dedication_page_Hellenic_Institute_codex_5.JP)